few are attracted to light or to sugar, but many of the larger species are easily "flushed" from their resting places and may be taken in the net.

The Tineidæ have a world-wide distribution, but certain groups are better represented in some parts of the world than in others. They have been discovered in rocks of the Miocene period and also in amber, indicating their presence on earth in early tertiary times.

The classifications thus far given are based too largely on superficial characters, except the one given of a part of the family by Mr. Meyrick, and this needs verification for the species of this country. I have already made critical studies on the structure of a large number of our species, but have not yet gone far enough to give a satisfactory synoptical table.

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NOTES ON A FEW SPECIES OF REARED COLEOPTERA.

By F. M. Webster.

Leptotrachelus dorsalis Fab.—The larvæ of this species were first observed by me on July 22, 1884, actively engaged in destroying the larvæ of the wheat straw worm, *Isosoma tritici* Riley, which the reaper had left exposed in the stubble. Early in August they were observed to stop the cavity in the upper end of the stubble with bits detached from the inside and rolled into a ball. August 11th larvæ, pupæ and adults were observed in stubbles that had thus been plugged up, a single individual only occupying a stubble. I have no description of the larva, except that it is slender, depressed, 8 mm. in length and very active. See Rep. Comm. Agr. 1884, p. 387.

Phalacrus politus Mels.—Adults reared August 4th from heads of rye affected with smut. Larvæ observed in these heads on July 12th, at which time they were isolated in breeding-jar. The same species breeds in smut on corn.

Neoclytus erythrocephalus Fab.—Observed female ovipositing in trunk of dead apple tree at Columbus, Ohio, July 21-24, 1891. From this same tree trunk adults emerged May 31, 1892.

Bruchus mimus Say.—Reared from seeds of Red Bud, *Cercis canadensis* L.

Disonycha caroliniana Fab.—I reared the adult at Lafayette, Ind., from a larva captured while feeding on the foliage of the

common Purslane, *Portulaca oleracea* L. Dr. Horn ("Transactions" Am. Ent. Soc. vol. xvi, p. 205) states that the species occurs from Pennsylvania to Florida, he having also a specimen in his cabinet from Missouri, "doubtful as to locality." My specimen was determined at the Department of Agriculture at Washington, where it was sent under No. 1376, July 6, 1891.

Cistela brevis Say.—I have reared adults of this from pupæ found in the decaying portion of a trunk of Red Bud, *Cercis canadensis* L. in Illinois, where, in the northern portion as well as in Indiana and Ohio, I have collected the light colored form, while in Ohio both this and the black form occur. It was the light form that was reared.

Apion segnipes Say.—Adults, larvæ and pupæ, found in pods of *Tephrosia virginiana* Pers. collected near Toledo, Ohio, October 5th, by Mr. J. S. Hine. The major portion of the larvæ had transformed in the pods, in the fields, as early as 14th of September.

Brachytarsus limbatus Say.—Adults were observed in the act of ovipositing in the bloom of Sneeze-weed, *Helenium autumale* L. near Wooster, Ohio, September 7th. Larvæ reach full growth in the fall and abandon the plants, emerging from the ground as adults the following Spring. The larvæ are rather robust, white, with brown heads, and are usually observed in the curved position common to Rhynchophorus larvæ.

Note on Platypsyllus.—Since the discovery of this insect much has been written about it by various authors, but none have indicated any means for distinguishing the sexes. Having recently received a very large series collected near Fort Yuma, Cal., the opportunity has been afforded for examining with a view to determining the sexual peculiarities.

As received, in alcohol, the females are apparently longer and are not bent in arc, the males shorter and bent. The wedge-shaped prosternal plate is almost absolutely smooth in the female, but with numerous coarse punctures, especially posteriorly in the male. The last ventral segment is oval at tip in the female, truncate or even slightly emarginate in the male. Finally, the anterior tarsi are slender in the female, and as compared with the tibiæ longer, while in the male there is a distinct shortening and thickening of the three basal joints.

In 39 specimens examined, 12 were females and 27 males, showing a preponderance of more than two to one in the males.—G. H. Horn, M.D.